Stephanie Nguyen

Astronomy – 2nd Period

Scientist Discover Monster Star – Summary

Paul Crowther, professor of astrophysics, led a team of astronomers to study two clusters of stars. The team of astronomers were able to study NGC 3603 and RMC 136a using a Very Large Telescope. Crowther is his team was able to determine that the star RMC 136a1 is brighter than the sun and is heaviest star ever found. RMC 136a1 is found in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy and is about 165,000 light years away from the Milky Way. To be able to spot RMC 165a1, you would need a sophisticated telescope, such as the Very Large Telescope. The Very Large Telescope is to be said one of the biggest telescope known to man. It is about 8 meters in diameter. Although the RMC 165a1 is one of the most luminous stars out there that mankind has found, those types of stars are massive when they are first created. Although it is brighter than the sun, compared to its age, it’s already halfway through. Once the star has reached the end, it would explode into a supernova, but we would not notice due to the distance between the star and Earth.

After reading this article, I still can’t believe there is another star out there that is a bigger and badder version of our sun. From what I can imagine, the sun is pretty bright. To think that there is a brighter version of our sun is interesting. I would love to be able to see the star for myself, but I would need The Very Large Telescope. With that being said, I think it’s amazing how The Very Large Telescope can see that far into the galaxy. 165,000 light years is extremely far. Although we would not be able to notice if the star explodes, it’s still an amazing discovery.